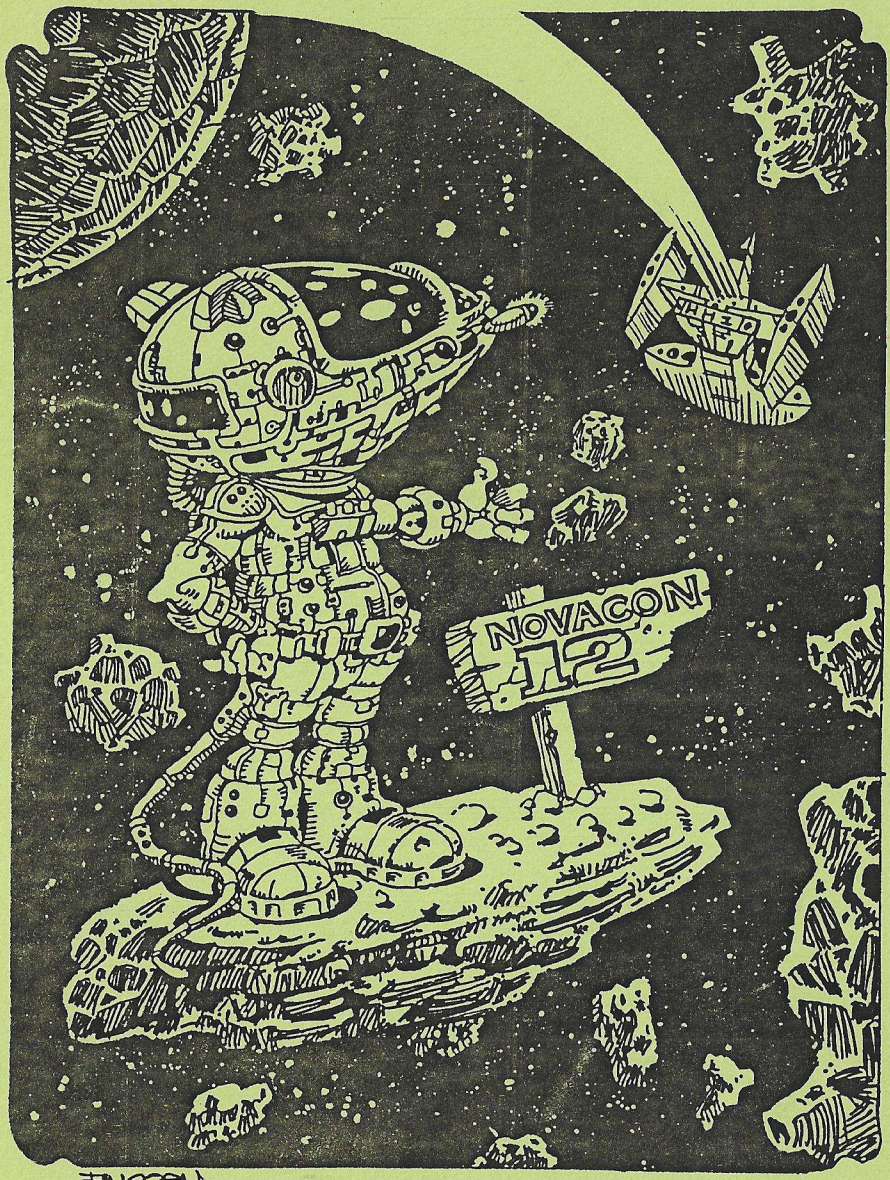
NOVACON 12

Organised by the Birmingham Science Fiction Group

5TH–7TH November 1982
ROYAL ANGUS HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM



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PROGRESS REPORT 2

HOTEL BOOKING FORMS ARE INCLUDED WITH THIS PROGRESS REPORT - IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT ONE PLEASE LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY. DITTO FOR THE HOTEL RESERVATION CARD.

Hotel Booking Time, folks - we've tried, yet again, to make it as simple as possible. We know at least one person won't understand it but from past experience we have learned to shoulder that small problem. Please read the form carefully and fill in the relevant details legibly.

Please note that Hotel Booking Forms will only be accepted from those people who have taken out full membership. If you have supporting membership only, you must send an extra £3 to convert from supporting to full attending membership. The Bookings will be processed by Eunice in the order they are received. Her address is Eunice Pearson, Apt 2, 1 Broughton Road, Handsworth, Birmingham 20. These will then be passed to the hotel who will, in due course, send confirmation of your booking. Once the Angus is filled, reservations will be made at an overflow hotel - this year we will be using the Grand Hotel which is a few minutes walk from the Angus. The same special NOVACON 12 rates will apply. (see Progress Report 1 or Booking Form for those special rates).

The convention programme will commence Friday evening and continue through to the early hours of Monday morning. We therefore suggest you book for the Friday, Saturday, Sunday nights, though you may, if you wish, only stay one or two nights. People booking for all three nights will be given preference over those staying one or two nights, when allocating rooms at the Angus. You will also note that on the Booking Form we have provided space for anyone wishing to arrive a day early and/or leave a day late - the Thursday night and the Monday night will be available to NOVACON 12 members at the Special rates.

In addition to the Hotel Booking Form, you must return the Hotel Reservation Card included with this PR. These must be completed and signed and returned, with the Hotel Booking Form to Eunice Pearson, not the Hotel. There is usually one joker who thinks he get beat the queue by sending his form and card direct to the hotel. What happens is, that the hotel put it on one side until we take in the first batch of reservations, we take it back home and put it at the back of the queue.

So, a quick checklist of Things to Do:-

1) Fill in your Hotel Booking form legibly.

2) Fill in the Hotel Reservation Card provided - see opposite for the details required. Remember we require only one card per room - if you are sharing a room, please ensure that only one person returns a card. If you want the hotel to arrange someone to share with you, please indicate this on the Special Requirements section of the Hotel Booking Form. We also need your card.

3) Send the completed Form and Card to Eunice Pearson at the above address, as soon as possible.

4) Sit back and relax after all that effort.

5) Check that you have signed the Booking Form and Reservation Card.

Guest of Honour: HARRY HARRISON

Chairman: Roger Peyton Committee: Eunice Pearson Phill Probert Dave Hardy Christopher Baker

THISTLE HOTELS

REGISTRATION FORM

(1) → SURNAME: DIGRIZ	FIRST NAME: JAMES	ROOM No.
HOME ADDRESS: (2) → 8 ASHKELON STREET, SOYLENT GREEN, DEATHWORLD		No. OF GUESTS
		RECEIVED BY
NATIONALITY	PASSPORT No.	ISSUED AT
DESTINATION	CAR No. / CASH ☐ / A/C Co ☐	CREDIT CARD TYPE & No.

NOTICE TO GUEST

Money, Jewellery and other valuables must be placed in a safe deposit box or with the reception, otherwise the Management will not be responsible for any loss.

SIGNATURE: James DiGriz

(3) 4

(4) ↓ ↓(5) ↓(6)

ARR 5/11/82	DEP 8/11/82	NAME JAMES DIGRIZ	ROOM
REQUESTED BY (7) → "NOVACON 12"			PRICE
			TAKEN BY
TEL. No.			DATE

Room Only ☐ Inc Cont. ☐ Inc Eng. ☐ Voucher ☐ Own ☐ A/C To Co. ☐

INVOICE
NAME
ADDRESS

ACCOUNT NUMBER

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REMARKS

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GROSS		
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DISCOUNT %

1800 RELEASE

HOLD

In PR1 we made the claim that we would have 6 (yes, SIX!) full-length feature films, none of which have ever been shown at SF cons in the UK. Many of you didn't believe us. Shame on you! For all you disbelievers, we give below the full details of NOVACON 12 films - all of which are booked and have been confirmed by the booking agencies.

Films

dave hardy

TIME BANDITS (Columbia-EMI-Warner, 110mins). The surprise fantasy hit of 1981/82 - described by STARLOG as "THE WIZARD OF OZ meets ALICE IN WONDERLAND, as told by Monty Python". (It was produced and directed by Terry Gilliam and co-written by Michael Palin). With six zany dwarfs, Sean Connery as King Agamemnon, John Cleese as Robin Hood, and a Map of the Universe showing all the Holes in Time, this film was a critical as well as a box office success. It'll have the tears running into your shoes.

SOMEWHERE IN TIME (UIP, 104mins). Another time story, though it couldn't be more different from TIME BANDITS. Based on the novel BID TIME RETURN by Richard Matheson, this is one to relax with after the previous hectic epics. It stars Christopher (Superman) Reeve, Jane Seymour and Christopher Plummer and is basically a love story: Richard Collier falls for a photograph of a beautiful actress - taken in 1912 - whom he met as an old lady on the night she died. Can he somehow travel back to meet her 'again'? Watch and find out.

BATTLE BEYOND THE STARS (Columbia-EMI-Warner, 102mins). Directed by Jimmy Murakami at Roger Corman's New World Productions studios, this multi-million-dollar space saga has been described as 'a sort of outer space MAGNIFICENT SEVEN'. The peaceful Akira are suddenly threatened with annihilation by nasty Sador (not Vader) the Conqueror. Brave young Akira, Shad (Richard Thomas), scours the galaxy to recruit mercenaries (of all shapes and sizes) to help them... An action-packed romp.

THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING WOMAN (UIP, 89mins). Yes, the balance of the sexes has been equalised again. Pat Kramer (Lily Tomlin), a normal, contented wife and mother, married to an advertising executive, finds that she is (guess what?) shrinking, inch by inch. Instead of being pleased, like most women, that she is losing weight, she tells her physician, who promptly kidnaps her to further his devious plans to control the world. But help is at hand - from Sidney the Gorilla... Oh, yes, didn't I mention? It's a comedy.

THE NUDE BOMB (UIP, 94mins). Another comedy, believe it or not (have you ever seen a bomb with clothes on?). The evil organistation KAOS (go on - pronounce it) broadcasts to the world that it has the power to destroy all known fabrics on Earth unless its demands are met. This one'll scare the pants off you - unless it comes true, in which case it won't need to.

END OF THE WORLD (ITC, 88mins). Every con should have a serious, thought-provoking film, and this isn't ours. But consider the theological as well as the cosmological implications of a remote convent taken over by aliens who have assumed the features of the local priests and nuns. This one stars Christopher Lee - need I say more?

Shorty 1) HARDWARE WARS (Pyramid, 13mins). Now we come to the heavy stuff. See for yourself the legendary adventures of Fluke Starbucker and Ham Salad and their robot friends as they battle with the incomprehensible Dorph Nader and his Steam Troopers (isn't that a rock group?). And may the farce be with you.

Shorty 2) CLOSET CASES OF THE NERD KIND (Pyramid, 12mins). What mysterious force could turn mild-mannered sewage worker Roy Dreary into a total twit? This is the revised version, complete with mashed potato, a famous French scientist, an over-sized xylophone (all together now - 'soh la fah fah, doh'), and, of course, UFO's.

Dave Hardy

WANTED - GOPHERS! (Hey, you! Go for this! Go for that!)

We need about half-a-dozen willing helpers to do odd jobs over NOVACON 12 weekend. To support the committee (well, not really - the bar will do that) by doing all the odd little jobs like fetching drinks for speakers, finding 'wanted' people, guarding the Art Show for short periods, helping to put up the Art display, putting up book room tables, etc.

Ideally, we require people who will be arriving early on Friday. If you do wish to volunteer, please indicate this in the space provided at the bottom of the Hotel Booking Form.

Pay is lousy but the free drinks are good!

Fan~turn Challenge

jim barker

A typical moment from the Channelcon Fan Turn Challenge

Appearances to the contrary, I don't really want to grow up to be Bob Monkhouse. When I was planning the programme for the Channelcon Fan Room, I knew that I wanted some very silly items which would, hopefully, be fun for both audience and participants. Since NOVACON 11 pinched my idea of a fannish MR & MRS, my solution was a game called FAN-TURN CHALLENGE. This was based on an obscure telly show in which two teams from other telly shows (TOMORROW'S WORLD or NATIONWIDE) competed in various silly games. The ideal format for a Fan Room. In my version, four teams of fans took part in the games...which were all based on other telly game shows. It just shows how much TV the averahe fan watches when not only did everyone recognise the games being pinched, but they could trot out all the catch-phrases connected with them as well.

Anyway, the whole thing was very popular, I'm pleased to say. So much so that the exercise is going to be repeated at NOVACON 12. This time the four teams competing are (tentatively): Authors; booksellers; fanzine editors and fans. I've already got two volunteers for the authors' team (Rob Holdstock and Chris Evans, though they were both drunk at the time) but I'm looking for volunteers to make up the numbers in the other teams. So, if you think you fit into one of the categories and you enjoy being excessively silly, why not get in touch with me at 113, Windsor Road, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, FK1 5DB, Central Scotland. Tel: 1324 35452.

Otherwise, I'll come looking for you....

Jim Barker

The Art Show

BIG Prizes. Lotsa prizes. Awards. Rosettes...

Voting slips will be provided for all attendees to the Art Show (this will be in the usual dungeon, the Lower Angus -no dragons, smoking or drinks, please) for voting in the following categories:-

1) Illustration from any Harry Harrison story of the artist's choice - any medium.

   1st Prize: a genuine, framed 'Bank of Deathworld' £10 note, plus a £10 voucher for art materials.

   2nd Prize: a £5 voucher for art materials.

2) Science Fiction/Space Art (any medium)

   1st Prize: a bottle of Venusian Hikk Cup (Scotch)
   2nd Prize: a bottle of Aldebaran Hyazakyte (wine)

3) Fantasy/Horror (any medium)

   1st Prize: a bottle of Beelzebubbl Juice (Scotch)
   2nd Prize: a bottle of Strychtime (wine)

The voting forms will be available on Friday and Saturday and must be handed in before the Art Show closes on Saturday evening. By noon on Sunday all winners will have been awarded special NOVACON 12 rosettes, and the above prizes will be awarded at the Art Auction on Sunday afternoon.

ARTISTS PLEASE NOTE: Don't forget to book your space as soon as possible. You may, of course, exhibit any type of artwork - eg. abstract, humour, etc - but prizes will be awarded in the above categories only.

Dave Hardy

Tel: 021-643 1999

ANDROMEDA
BOOKSHOP

84 SUFFOLK STREET, BIRMINGHAM, B1 1TA, ENGLAND

SPECIALISTS IN SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY & HORROR

Nova Awards

dave langford

Venerability comes fast in fandom, not only through the hellish pace and gruelling drinking: in some quarters I seem to be regarded as a white-bearded sage who alone recalls the moment when the Nova Award was first carted down the slopes of Sinai. Actually I had nothing to do with the Nova for its first four years...despite which my file on the damned thing is thicker than a Piers Anthony trilogy, or even a Piers Anthony protagonist.

In the beginning the Brum Group saw that the field of British fanzine awards was void (apart from the informal CHECKPOINT - now the informal ANSIBLE - poll); and the spirit of the Brum Group brooded on the face of its beer, and said, "Let there be the Nova Award." And it was so. In those days the winning fanzine was decided by a select committee of famous fans, and from 1973 to 1976 the committee-chosen Nova Awards were presented with great ceremony, ritual, pageantry and insobriety at each Novacon. (The complete and updated list appears in each programme book, enabling this particular lazy sod to omit the details here.)

But all was not well. Fanzine editors gathered in the bar saying things like, "Who are these committee members that they should judge us?" Committee members gathered in the bar saying things like, "We can't agree," or "Well bugger it, I wouldn't have joined this committee if I'd known my own fanzine would be made ineligible." NOVACON 7 committee members gathered in the bar saying things like Stan Eling's "How about a bit of electoral reform, Dave?" or Dave Langford's sodden response, "OK."

After a period of research, consultation, guesswork and hangovers which would have made a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Procrastination look positively efficient, the Nova Rules took form, were engraved for all eternity upon slabs of imperishable duplicator paper, and were at once forgotten. The most important bits survive in the wording of the ballot forms, the award now being more or less democratic and the select committee having been utterly abolished with the exception of something very select called the Nova Committee. (Are you beginning to see how bureaucracy works?) Your merry NOVACON 12 committee - also frightfully select, but nothing to do with the Nova Committee, of course - now feels that a word or two about these mysterious Rules would be in order.

The fundamental idea of the Nova as it's been run since 1977 is that it should be awarded by informed vote. The informed votes come from informed voters, defined as Novacon members (anyone who is anyone in British fandom surely goes to Novacon) who've been active in fanzines some time in the year or two preceding the relevant Novacon. "Active in fanzines" is a bit harder to pin down, but for the sake of clarity our rules define this as having produced one or more fanzines, or having contributed articles/artwork to two or more, or having had letters of comment printed in three or more. This rather tedious definition merely shows the difficulty of capturing fannish intangibles in print.

So: huge piles of ballots appear on the Novacon registration desk (the previous experiment of sending out copies with a progress report having produced excitingly huge responses such as two postal votes); it would be a good idea to think about your vote in advance should you qualify, but forms can be completed and handed in up to the very last moment - this being when the registration desk closes on Saturday evening. Don't forget. All too often, after the announcement, certain individuals have gathered in the bar saying things like, "Bloody hell, I'd have voted but I thought so-and-so was already a dead cert to win" In the words of the ancient sages, too late is not soon enough.

But who are these three fans who alone of all the convention are not gathered in the bar? Who are these pathetic outcasts who sit forlorn and almost sober, staring glumly at wads of paper covered with illegible scrawls? You've got it: the Nova Committee, three supposedly knowledgeable fans who check qualifications and count votes, all the while watching one another like slightly bloodshot hawks to ensure that utter fairness is maintained even when votes for fanzines produced by Nova Committee members come under scrutiny.

The voter has merely to list up to three favourite British fanzines in order of preference - and since 1981 there's also the option of listing up to three favourite British fanwriters and fanartists in addition, the original fanzine Nova having been diversified by the ever-megalomaniac Brum Group. The

vote for C.O.F.F.

Channelcon this year saw the launching of SF Fandom's newest award - COFF (The Concrete Overcoat Fan Fund). 'Cough up for COFF' posters were placed around the con, and several notable fans were approached to get publicity for this new award. But none wished to be involved. Who can blame them? This is the Award no-one wants to win. It is this fact that sets COFF apart from other awards.

COFF will be awarded every year to the fan judged by fandom as most deserving to be embedded in concrete and thrown into the nearest canal. As the regional water authority deem this to be a navigational hazard, there will be a symbolic presentation. The winner (loser?) will receive, for one year, the magnificent COFF trophy of which it was said at the Channelcon Art Show, "This is an exhibit?"

The rules for voting are amazingly simple. You may vote for anyone you like (or dislike, if you prefer), you may vote as many times as you wish. BUT each vote must be accompanied by a 10p piece (or two 5ps, etc). Proceeds will be donated equally to TAFF and GUFF.

There is a place to vote provided at the bottom of the Hotel Booking Form. Other slips will be available at NOVACON 12. Don't waste your vote!

Proceeds at present have reached the magnificent total of £8.10 with no one individual having more than 12 votes. But block voting and cartels could soon change that position. There must be someone you would like to see embedded in readymix!

Kev Clark (COFF Administrator)

Committee in its sealed room has all the fun of making huge lists of nominated items, totting up points in the weighted-voting system (5 for 1st-place vote, 3 for 2nd-place, 1 for 3rd), comparing the grand totals, breaking ties in favour of the item with more first-place votes, breaking really stubborn ties by committee decision (which thankfully has never yet happened), and in due course revealing the Winners. (It's also become traditional for the runners-up to be leaked some while after the convention - which does no harm to anybody.)

This fairly simple-sounding business is elaborately and boringly enshrined in the Nova Award Rules, or more properly T*H*E N*O*V*A A*W*A*R*D R*U*L*E*S, a massive compendium of 35 clauses intended to eliminate all error or ambiguity (some hope), plus an appendix of 7 extra clauses to cover the unlikely event of a presentation in a year when no Novacon is held (long ago there seemed a possibility that this might happen, or rather not happen, in our Worldcon year of 1979), plus a further appendix of 5 more expanding the rules to cope with categories other than 'fanzine'. No wonder then thatwhen my Nova Award Rules Procrastination Committee finally delivered this vast document, strong men like Rog Peyton reeled, clutched at wads of fivers for support, and gasped: "I wanted something that would go on one small page..." They said the same of Stephen Donaldson, you know, and with more justification - and look at him now.

Thus the fabulous Nova Award, of which the Booker or Nobel Prizes are but feeble and mundane imitations. Vote if you can; stagger drunkenly to the presentation ceremony on Novacon Sunday to see the winners receive trophies beside which the Crown Jewels look like mere crown jewels; and remember, the Nova Award is one of those great institutions which have made Birmingham what it is. Like Spaghetti Junction.

End of lecture. You may go now.

Dave Langford

(Thank you Dave, for providing the 'short paragraph' on the Nova Awards....! Anyone requiring a copy of the full Nova Award Rules, complete with Appendices, should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU.)

FANZINES ON THE RUN

Kev Smith

Unfortunately, we are unable to print part 2 of this series for the very simple reason Kev hasn't sent it! We've tried contacting him without any success. We can only presume that he has been tied up with arrangements for his TAFF trip to America. Have a good time Kev, but remember when you get back you've got two columns to do for PR3!

Convention Members

Almost 100 more registrations since PR1 - 262 registered to date, which is about average looking back at PR2s for previous NOVACONs. There are several notable omissions so we'll be reminding one or two people who have obviously 'forgotten' to register. As I write this I've just received a phone call from Bob Shaw panicking because he'd just remembered he hadn't registered!

ARE YOU REGISTERED? CHECK THIS LIST.... (S)= Supporting membership only.

169 Martin Tudor
170 Les Chester
171 Jan Huxley
172 Chris Hughes
173 Stephen Devaney
174 Simon Norburn
175 Mary Gray
176 Mike Gray
177 Cathie Taylor
178 Martyn Taylor
179 Patricia Gardener
180 Yvonne Meaney
181 John Meaney
182 Sandy Brown
183 Joan Newman
184 John Newman
185 Brian Ameringen
186 Glenys Lewis
187 Alec Lewis
188 Helen Holmes
189 David Holmes
190 A Harris
191 Tim Broadribb
192 Pat Meara
193 Mike Meara
194 Colin Hand
195 Roy Macinski
196 Nigel Robson
197 Charlotte Bulmer
198 Stuart Hall
199 Chris Mayers
200 Steen Lambourne
201 Lawrence Lambourne
202 Linda Marston
203 Tim Marston
204 June McGraw
205 Lin Anderson
206 Joe Nevin
207 Marion van der Voort
208 Richard van der Voort
209 Adrian Snowdon
210 Bob Whitaker
211 Alison Cook
212 Joe Gibbons
213 Jimmy Robertson
214 C Newton
215 I H S Newton
216 Nigel Wheeler
217 Tony Rogers
218 John Botham
219 Richard Meeham
220 John Brosnan
221 Paul A Stewart
222 Bruce Saville
223 Dave Packwood
224 Mike Millward (S)
225 Becky Ward
226 Mark Davidson
227 Brian Williams
228 Margaret Thorpe
229 Malcolm Thorpe
230 Stuart Mackintosh
231 Stephen Parker
232 Laura Wheatley
233 Nick Mills
234 Phil Rogers
235 Eric Bentcliffe
236 Dai Price (S)
237 Anne Fedorko
238 Andy Hobbs
239 Ian Williams
240 Peter Mernmott
241 Phil Palmer
242 Barry Duggan
243 Jeff Dempsey
244 Sandra Kemp (S)
245 Geoff Kemp (S)
246 Tim Collidge (S)
247 Barbara Davies (S)
248 Anthony Blagg (S)
249 Marsha Jones
250 Eddie Jones
251 Tom Taylor (S)
252 Lawrence Dean
253 Bernard Earp
254 Andrew Rose
255 Toby English
256 Debby Moir
257 Mike Moir
258 Dewi C Williams
259 Mal Ashworth (S)
260 Carlton Collister (S)
261 Judith Hanna
262 Ann Thomas

COMMITTEE ADDRESSES

Rog Peyton (Chairman), 19 Eves Croft, Bartley Green, Birmingham B32 3QL.
Phill Probert (Treasurer), Apt 2, 1 Broughton Road, Handsworth, Birmingham 20.
Eunice Pearson (Registrations), Ditto.
Chris Baker (Art Show), 88 Willows Road, Cannon Hill, Birmingham B12 9QD.
Dave Hardy (Art Show/Films), 99 Southam Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 0AB.

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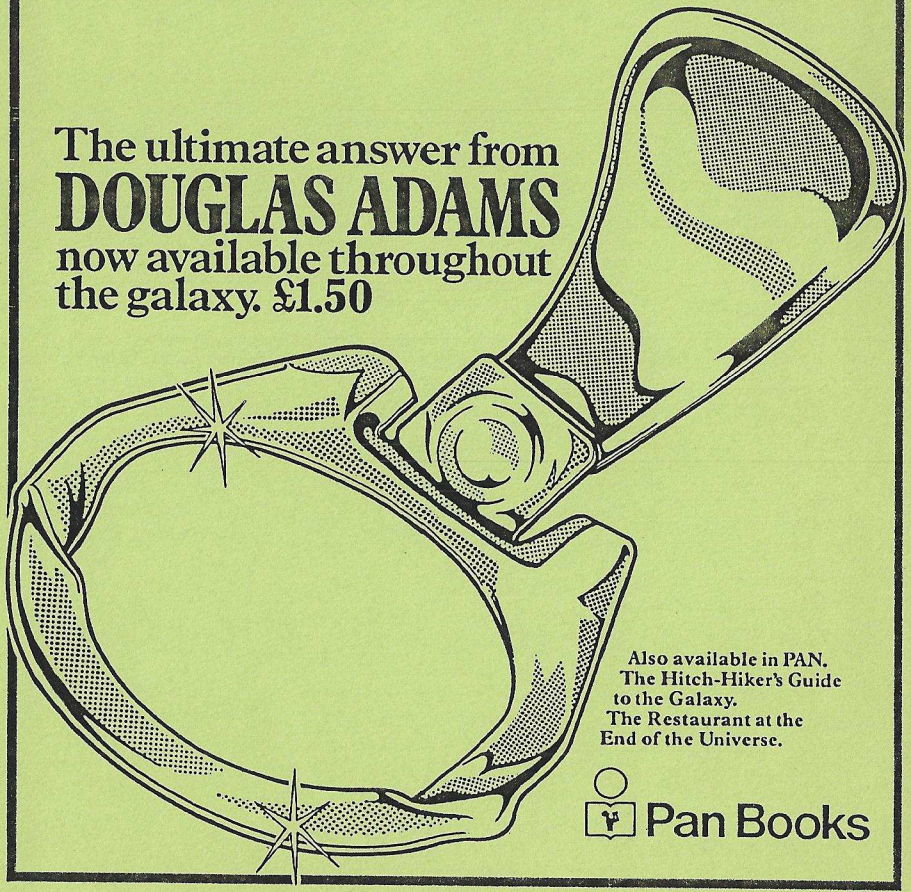

Also available in PAN.
The Hitch-Hiker's Guide
to the Galaxy.
The Restaurant at the
End of the Universe.

Pan Books